

FREETOWN PARADE & FIREWORKS MEETING

Monday, February 10, 2020 - 4:00pm

Freetown Town Hall

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FREETOWN TOWN CLERK

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*J. Brown*

In Attendance: Pat Wilbur, Sharon Rosen, Bob Gregory, Linda Remedis, Ellem Lima,  
Karen Facchiano, Bob Adams, John Remedis, Ashley Emery, Judy Gregory  
Absent: Jean Fox

Minutes from previous meeting of 10/22/19 read and approved.

Discussed the price increase (due to imposed 15% tariffs) for our fireworks. To continue with a comparable show to our previous standards, we'll need to increase this year's budget to \$12,000-\$12,500 (from last year's budget of \$9,999). This will require putting our fireworks show out to bid. We will contact American Thunder (our supplier for many years), as well as (at least) one other, such as Ocean State Pyrotechnics. Judy will work on the required paperwork needed by the town hall to get this in motion.

Another major expense for 2020 will be the need for replacing worn-out flags. We will have to replace at least 40 of our 80+ flags on both sides of town. Discussed buying flag kits, which would allow us to replace poles as well. Pricing will be looked in to for our next meeting, and then voted on whether to buy flags or flag kits. All encouraged to check out vendors for prices. ~ ~ We will also need to replace the flags that hang on the Elm Street bridge. Will also do some figuring of how best to decorate the north side of the bridge to allow for visibility of vehicles.

It was noted P&F finances are sound, but with the increases in our various costs this year, we'll need to continue asking for the generosity of our (t-shirt) sponsors.

Judy went over the time line for all the various tasks to be completed. Linda agreed to continue taking charge of inviting parade participants. Judy stressed the amount of work entailed with all aspects of the parade. Sharon and Karen offered to help Linda by working with the physical logistics for the parade (such as the lay-out for the parade, starting/ending, judging, etc).

Committee agreed the town parade will remain on the 4th of July. Also agreed having shuttles at the fireworks where everyone leaves at the same time, would logistically be nearly impossible to manage, and result in safety and traffic issues.

Discussed the use of P&F Facebook page as a way to inform and update people.

Voted for 2020: Judy as Chair, Bob A as Treasurer, Bob G as Clerk, Linda as Parade Invitational Coordinator, Sharon & Karen as Parade Line-Up Coordinators, Ashley as Social Media Coordinator.

Discussed the logistics with the beginning line-up of the parade, as well as the ending at Hathaway.

Also, discussed the possibility of Ridge Hill Road being where the parade starts. Noted the private residences and businesses in the immediate area. Will need to look in to this (soon), to see if it could be an option.

Linda suggested requiring parade participants to register by filling out applications; and be accountable for (possible) insurance liabilities (similar to what is done at the car shows she and John hold).

Agreed this year's t-shirts will have: "In Memory of Karen Mello"  
(Karen was a town employee for many years before she passed in 2019.)

Suggested by Mike McCue, where the Standard Times no longer does a Man/Woman/Group of the Year for individual communities, that P&F "go public" by asking for nominations on-line for Freetown's Man/Woman/Group/Student to be recognized and participate in our parade - hopefully we can do it this year.

Talked about the "requirements" for being chosen as Grand Marshal. Two possible candidates were brought up. One of the two, who couldn't commit to 2019 will be asked first, if they're available for 2020.

Next meeting: Monday, March 9, 2020 at 4pm

Meeting adjourned: 5:25pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Gregory - clerk